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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am a contented customer of a local ISP that provides reliable, high-bandwidth service at a good price. Due to a happy accident of geography, I had a choice between two such options. The vast majority of Americans are not so lucky. I'm a scientist, which means my job requires global communication, including for example the ability to video-conference from home when the needs of scheduling across timezones rule out doing so from the office. I greatly appreciate the honest competition between providers that makes reliable service not just possible, but affordable.

Without competition, customers suffer. That's just basic economics. When the customer cannot pick up and take their business elsewhere, a corporation will charge more for worse service. Any red-blooded believer in the market knows this to be true. From time to time, markets need nudges from regulation to keep that healthy competition going. We might wish it were otherwise, but such is the lesson of history --- and it is not so much to ask, when doing it right means that everybody wins.

It's time for honest civil servants to do their job and keep broadband competition healthy.

Yours truly,  
Blake C. Stacey, PhD

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